Withdrawal of subsidies on petroleum products

585. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out any strategy to withdraw all subsidy with respect to various petroleum products for the ensuing years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the difficulties and problems of the strata of society, these subsidies are intended for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) It has been decided to phase out the subsidy on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in the next three to five years.

LPG distributors in Orissa

586. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of companies dealing with LPG connection and distribution in Orissa;

(b) the number of distributors/dealers appointed by each copmpany;

(c) the names of such distributors/dealers;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to increase the LPG connections in that State; and

(e) if so, the target set for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are dealing with the LPG distribution in the State of Orissa, The number of LPG distributors as on 1.1.2002 operated by these OMCs were as under:—

IOCL	BPCL	HPCL
52	23	57

(d) and (e) At present, LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country including the State of Orissa.

Abandoned wells in Gujarat

587. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wells and fields which are abondoned by ONGC in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any demand from any Government/private company for taking over of such fields; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to bridge the gap between the present demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Although, 941 wells were abandoned by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the State of Gujarat, no hydrocarbon bearing field has been so abandoned;

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(c) In order to increase the domestic hydrocarbon production to bridge the gap between the present demand and supply, the following steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government and National Oil Companies (NOCs):—

(i) Increased exploration by the NOCs and/or private companies including implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(ii) Acquisition of overseas acreages for equity oil by the NOCs.

(iii) Exploration in deep water and other frontier areas.

(iv) Better reservoir management of existing fields.

(v) Work-over and application of artificial lift.

(vi) Application of EOR/Improved Recovery methods.

(vii) Exploration of Coal Bed Methane & Gas hydrates as alternate sources of hydrocarbon energy.